

# Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1874.

## The Township Meeting.

The annual meeting called by the Township Committee was held last Tuesday evening. About 400 citizens were present. The meeting was called to order and organized by the appointment of Messrs. J. F. Sauxay as Chairman and J. F. Folsom Secretary. The annual report of the Committee had been printed in pamphlet form and copies were distributed to the citizens present.

Mr. Folsom, Township Clerk, read and explained the report, which comprised the various accounts of the township, and concluded with a list of 600 delinquent tax-payers.

After the reading and acceptance of the report, Mr. J. B. Bedford moved to charge to the contingent account the old lamp account, which consists of uncollected assessments of two years ago, under the kerosene lighting.

Mr. V. Thomas moved to amend by including in this wiping out of assessments, all the back taxes. This tally created some ferment. The amendment, however, as well as the original motion was lost.

Mr. Randolph thought the report of the Township Committee was incomplete. It did not show a balance sheet. He desired to see the items showing in detail where and how the public funds had been spent.

Mr. Beach stated that the Town Committee would answer any questions and make any explanations respecting the report, but which he thought was sufficiently in detail.

Mr. I. C. Ward wished to know why his name was returned as a delinquent tax-payer. He had tendered in payment of part of it an order or warrant issued by the Town Committee upon the ex-collector, who had not paid it; the present collector had declined to receive it in payment of Mr. Ward's tax, hence the return of his name. One or two other irregularities in the published list were explained by the Collector and Township Clerk, after which something of a controversy occurred between Mr. Page, Chairman of the School Board of Trustees, and Mr. Beach of the Township Committee, upon the school money. Mr. Page stated that the two mill tax and the State appropriation was in the hands of the Collector, and that this meeting should pass a resolution requiring the Township Committee to pay over the money to the School Board. The Collector in reply said he had not received the money from the county Collector. Mr. Page thought the amount of the State appropriation of money for the schools should have appeared in the Township Committee's report. Mr. Beach said the matter was entirely between the Collector and the School Trustees. The former had been instructed to pay over the proportion of taxes due the schools, as fast as it was collected, and which had been done. The meeting left this discussion to consider the appropriations for the coming year.

The road question came up first, and the ball was opened by Mr. Thomas, who said he was opposed to voting any large amount to be spent as heretofore, upon the roads. He referred to the list of unpaid taxes, which, he thought, showed that the burden was greater than the people could bear. One-sixth of the money raised by taxes was for road purposes, and where had it gone? "Gentlemen, can you tell me where?"

"Mud," was the laconic response from an orator near the door, and which brought down the house.

Several sums, ranging from \$500 to \$30,000 were named to be voted upon.

Mr. Beach agreed with Mr. Thomas as to the uselessness of spending money upon roads as in the past. He stated that \$2,500 of the money voted last year had been expended upon a survey and map of the town under the street improvement law.

Mr. Cook was in favor of voting an appropriation to be expended in getting one or more streets ready for a permanent pavement.

Mr. D. Oakes was opposed to raising money in this way. He thought no Telford pavement would be put down for the next two years.

Mr. Chambers, speaking of the changes and alterations in regard to improvements, said that a year or two ago they came along and took 18 inches out of his yard, and now and then they had kindly come along and filled it up. (Laughter.)

A vote being taken upon an appropriation,

\$30,000	received	3 votes.
5,000	"	10 "
3,000	"	9 "
1,000	"	30 "
500	"	44 "
250	"	47 "

Mr. Chambers moved for a reconsideration of the vote, which was lost, 32 to 36. So, it must become history that a Bloomfield town meeting voted twenty shillings for road purposes in 1874.

The next appropriation was for support of poor. Mr. Heddin suggested an appropriation of \$1,500. He thought the Ladies' Relief Society were performing a good work for the poor, and that it lessened the necessity for a large appropriation. There was also a balance left over from last year.

Mr. McComb inquired into the expediency of repairs on the poor house. He had been told it was hardly a fit place for the poor and was too remote from the town. Mr. Cook moved to raise \$5,000, and build a poor-house, together with a lock-up. The motion was favorably discussed, but upon a vote was lost. An appropriation was made for \$2,000 for support of the poor.

The appropriation for the contingent fund coming up, Mr. Page again pressed his claim for the deficient school money, claiming that it should come from this source. He introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Township Committee be instructed to pay to the Trustees of the Central Union School District the sum of \$1,492.75, it being the amount of the State appropriation for 1872.

Messrs. Parsons and Yerence objected to Dist. No. 6 being called upon to help pay this deficiency, as their district had already paid their school money.

Mr. Randolph thought it was the duty of all to sustain the Trustees, as they were doing a noble work for the cause of education, and were doing it gratuitously.

An appropriation of \$1,000 was made for the Contingent fund, and Mr. Page's resolution was carried.

The meeting then voted to raise \$500 for cross-walks.

In considering an appropriation for the public grounds, Mr. A. T. Morris spoke of the need of a flagged walk on the east side of the Park. The cost of such a walk as was suitable, the whole length of the Park, was estimated at \$5,000.

The extent of the appropriation for public grounds was \$500. This finished the business of the meeting, when it was moved and carried to adjourn.

## Our Road Problem.

The vote at a late township meeting to appropriate \$250 for roads does not by any means permit us to escape the main question—What are we going to do about them?

It will be competent, at the primary meeting to-night, to fix upon a sum adequate to the purpose of necessary repairs—say \$500 or \$1,000 to be judiciously expended in keeping our roads in a traveling condition.

The township will be liable to prosecution should we adhere strictly to the open views of some to "let the roads alone," "don't vote a dollar," etc. As a sturdy rebuke for misappropriated funds upon the roads, the twenty-shilling vote is all very well, but it won't extricate us from the mud.

Let us make a beginning. Let us have at least one street paved or macadamized. Our street improvement law, under which we must act, does not seem to meet the case exactly. Probably there is not a street in town the owners upon which in sufficient numbers would petition to have it paved.

Perhaps if the township would vote \$10,000 for road purposes to be applied to paving, say a section of Broad-street, the property owners on the same would be induced to petition under the law and assume the rest of the expense. We feel assured it will be difficult to find a street or part of a street which can be paved under this law, unless the people at large contribute something towards paying for an improvement which is a benefit to the entire town. If this plan can be carried out, in a few years we should have all our main streets redeemed from the deplorable condition they are in. Would it not be well for the meeting of to-night to discuss this matter?

## The N. & B. Horse Cars.

At a special meeting of the Township Committee held Wednesday night, consent was given that the Newark and Bloomfield Horse Car Railroad company may change their route so as to run by way of Bloomfield avenue. A restriction, however, was made in relation to running of cars on Sunday, unless sanctioned by a majority of the citizens. We regard the "change of base," thus adopted to be a movement that will meet with the acquiescence of our people, and prove advantageous and remunerative to the company. The old line, we believe, was found to be a financial failure, on account of the heavy grades and length of route. With horse-cars running from "The Centre" direct to Newark over a level road, an advantage to our town will result which can hardly be over-estimated.

We regret to learn that Mrs. J. Newton Ewell, one of the ladies wounded at the explosion of "Parlor Artillery," Monday last, in New York city, is related to some of our own citizens, and is a daughter of A. V. Stott, Esq., Pres. National Shoe and Leather Bank. Mrs. Ewell's injuries, we understand, are of a very alarming nature.

A very fine vocal concert is announced to take place in the M. E. Church next Wednesday evening. Among the talented artists engaged are Miss Lizzie Rie, soprano; Miss Davidson Contralto; Mr. W. Thompson, Tenor, and several others of acknowledged ability. No doubt the house will be filled.

A primary meeting was held in Kurt Hall, Watseking, last Friday night, and largely attended. Mr. W. C. Beatty received the nomination of the meeting for member of the Town Committee from that district. Robert Brower was commissioned to present his name at the Bloomfield Republican Primary Meeting.

It is expected that Mr. George May Powell, who conducted the U. S. Exploring Expedition in the East, will lecture in Bloomfield at an early day. A course of his lectures began in Newark in Association Hall, last evening. They are said to be very interesting and embossed illustrations by large paintings, crayons and photographs.

Mr. T. E. Hayes has perfected the gasfitting, etc., in the first Presbyterian Chapel. The large reflectors have been adapted to gas in place of oil, and droplights, in bronze, of a very neat pattern, have been introduced under the galleries. The entire work is very creditable to Mr. Hayes and the Trustees express themselves well pleased with the efficient manner in which it has been performed.

## The Moths' Relief Committee

They have really done it! The Moths I mean. They have held an indignation meeting, have made speeches, passed resolutions and actually organized a Relief Committee. Do you want to know how I found it out? I quite rejoice to be able to tell you, for they were so unsuspicious of an inimical listener, so outspoken and frank in their wrath, that I cannot keep from chuckling when I think how nicely we will outwit the little rascals.

This Ladies' Relief Committee has quite turned our family topsy-turvy, and the home has turned our garrets ditto. Trunks, boxes, chests, packages and bags have been ransacked for second-hand clothing, and really I have thought that not another garment could be found to give, unless we intended to bring ourselves within the range of the committee's charities. But yesterday, moved by a sudden impulse I determined to make one more expedition garret-ward. I bounded upstairs, flung open the door of the darkgarret within whose mysterious corners some old things might, I thought, have got tucked away, and I entered with a dive—I use the word advisedly—for my foot tripped on a feather bed, which had been thrown on the floor in the haste of a former search, and with startling rapidity I plunged head foremost into its billowy depths. I did not arise as quickly. The soft folds closed so warmly and gently around me, I found my mind in the First Presbyterian church when I say that it is with much pleasure we have been informed that quarterly exercise, similar to those held Sunday last, will occur the first Sabbath of each third month, thus affording many an opportunity to participate in these delightful and profitable exercises, without leaving our own service, the first church being closed the evening of Communion Sabbath.

The Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kennedy, then made a few pleasing and appropriate remarks, after which the audience joined in a hymn and were dismissed.

Our neighbors have made a marked improvement in their audience room by the introduction of street gas; surely they are "letting their light shine" in many ways—ways in which it would be well that all our churches should follow.

I am confident that I speak the minds of many in the First Presbyterian church when I say that it is with much pleasure we have been informed that quarterly exercise, similar to those held Sunday last, will occur the first Sabbath of each third month, thus affording many an opportunity to participate in these delightful and profitable exercises, without leaving our own service, the first church being closed the evening of Communion Sabbath.

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